

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NASA-04 USIA-12 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /072 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5326

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FOR: AF/ C COHEN

E. O. 11652: DECON MAY 22, 1974

TAGS: TSPA, NASA, MA

SUBJ: NASA TRACKING STATION PUBLIC RELATIONS

1. NASA STATION DIRECTOR POUCHING TO HIS HEADQUARTERS AT GODDARD MAY 22, AND EMBASSY TO AF/ C, DRAFT OF ORIENTATION BROCHURE FOR NEW EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS AT STATION. NASA HAD INDICATED DESIRE REVIEW BROCHURE BEFORE APPROVING ITS USE IN MADAGASCAR.
2. EMBASSY AND USIS HAVE REVIEWED ORGINAL DRAFT WRITTEN BY STATION DIRECTOR AND MADE FEW COMMENTS WHICH WERE SUBSEQUENTLY INCLUDED IN LATEST DRAFT. IT IS EXCELLENT AND COMPREHENSIVE, YET REASONABLY SHORT, EXPLANATION OF JUST WHAT STATION DOES DO AND HOW ITS ACTIVITIES RELATE TO WORLD SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND TO MALAGASY INTERESTS IN PARTICULAR.
3. ONLY POLICY ISSUE WHICH DRAFT APPEARS RAISE IS ITS INCLUSION OF THIRD- COUNTRY SATELLITES IN DESCRIPTION OF ALL SATELLITES WHICH TANANARIVE STATION SUPPORTS. WE HAVE NEVER SPECIFICALLY RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH GOMR FOR REASONS DEPT IS AWARE, BUT BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL FOR SAKE OF COMPLETENESS AND AVOID ANY FUTURE CHARGE OF CONCEALMENT INCLUDED THIRD- COUNTRY SATELLITES IN DRAFT BROCHURE.

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4. DRAFT ALSO INCLUDES, AT SPECIFIC EMBASSY REQUEST, DESCRIPTION OF SUPPORT WHICH WILL BE FURNISHED TO UPCOMING JOINT US- SOVIET SPACE OPERATION. PURPOSE OF THIS TACK IS TO TRY DEFUSE SOME OF ATTACKS ON EXISTENCE OF NASA STATION WHICH EMANATE FROM PRESS ORGANS OF PRO- SOVIET AKFM PARTY.

5. THIS BROCHURE WILL BE SIMPLY DONE FOR USE IN ORIENTING NEW EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS TO STATION, AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR WIDER USE TO WHICH MORE ELABORATE BROCHURE NOW UNDER PREPARATION BY USIS WILL BE PUT.

6. BELIEVE INFORMATION IN BROCHURE, FIRST OF ITS KIND HERE, AND EVENTUAL USIS MATERIALS IN MALAGASY AND FRENCH SHOULD GO LONG WAY TO COUNTER PREVALENT ARGUMENTS OF ANTI- AMERICANS AND LINGERING SUSPEICIONS OF MANY MALAGASY SYMPATHETIC TO US THAT STATION IS IN FACT IN MILITARY ELECTRMLIC INTELLIGENCE BUSINESS. AM CONFIDENT GOVT WILL APPRECIATE AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO HELP DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS.

7. IF DEPT HAS ANY COMMENTS, WOULD APPRECIATE THEM PROMPTLY.

MENDENHALL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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